



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POSTAL SUPERVISORS

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November 21, 2024

### **Board Memo 180-2024: Updates on Mercury Spills in Phoenix Plant and Cove Creek Annex & Main Post Office**

#### **Executive Board,**

Below are updates regarding mercury spills that occurred yesterday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at the Phoenix Plant, Cove Creek Annex, and Cove Creek Main Post Office.

#### **West Valley PDC – 620 North 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Phoenix, AZ 85043**

##### **COMPLETED ACTIVITIES:**

- Based on uncertain tracking information and as an abundance of caution the Contractor completed a targeted assessment of the West Valley PDC. This included potential dock bays, equipment, and paths between the dock and staging that the package may have taken through the facility. During the assessment, the contractor found a single, small area (less than 10SF reported) with mercury levels slightly above Postal clearance requirement (>3-6 ug).
  - It's unclear if this is related to the mercury spill at Cave Creek PO or if it's residual from cross contamination. No other areas in the plant tested positive for mercury.
  - As a precautionary method the contractor will clean that portion of the floor this evening. There will be no impacts to operations.
  - The Plant is fully operational. No additional sampling or cleaning required.

##### **. PLANNED ACTIVITIES**

- Contactor will clean the small area of flooring referenced above. Mercury vapor analysis will be performed to confirm cleaning reduced levels in that area.

#### **Cave Creek Carrier Annex – 6710 East Cave Creek Road in Cave Creek Road, AZ 85331**

##### **COMPLETED ACTIVITIES:**

- Contractor determined this facility is contaminated with mercury at approx. 6:30am local time.
- Local USPS employees' shoes were collected.
  - All employees have been released from the site.
- The contractor analyzed the trailer that transported the package. All data was below Postal requirements. No mercury present.

##### **PLANNED ACTIVITIES:**

- Contractor will continue to assess the building to determine:
  - what specific areas are contaminated
  - if mail transport equipment (MTE) is contaminated
  - which pieces of mail must be bagged and screened.
- Contractor will begin vacuuming up mercury beads, if identified.
- All Postal and local personnel vehicles will be screened.

**Cave Creek Main Post Office – 38400 North School House Road in Cave Creek, AZ 85331**

**PLANNED ACTIVITIES:**

- PRIORITY: Isolate the package, and if safe:
  - Attempt to weigh the package to compare scanned weight to current weight.
  - Photograph the packing slip.
  - Photograph the package contents and any identifying information (serial number, model number, etc.).
- Begin delineation of impacted zones.
- Contractor will make arrangements for decontamination tent.
- Contractor will make arrangements for clean item storage (e.g., Conex Container)
- Contractor will determine if temporary restrooms are required.
- Contractor will determine the process for handing over clean mail to local USPS.

**NOTE: this site was deprioritized due to more urgent priorities at the Annex and Plants, therefore limited staff is present.**

**Phoenix Processing and Distribution Center (Plant 852) – 4949 East Van Buren in Phoenix, AZ 85026**

**COMPLETED ACTIVITIES**

- Contractor conducted a targeted assessment and observed no mercury.
- Plant can continue normal operations.
- This site will be removed from further updates.

Please share this information with your membership.

Thank you, and be safe.

NAPS Headquarters